



United States Steel – Midwest Plant  
6300 US Highway 12 – MS AE-1  
PORTAGE, IN 46368

#3

April 20, 2012

Mr. Gary Starks  
Office of Water Quality  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
100 North Senate Avenue – Post Office Box 6015  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

**Re: United States Steel Corporation Midwest Plant  
NPDES Permit IN0000337  
Unauthorized Discharge at Outfall 004**

Dear Mr. Starks:

This letter is to serve as a follow up to the phone call that was placed to your office on Monday, April 16, 2012 regarding the unauthorized discharge at United States Steel Corporation – Midwest Plant Outfall 004 (NPDES Permit IN0000337 – effective March 1, 2011), which was discovered on the afternoon of Sunday, April 15, 2012.

Outfall 004 is permitted to discharge treated process waters from Internal Outfalls 104 and 204, storm water, and non-contact cooling water. On April 14, 2012, process water from the tin line evaporator system discharged directly to the Outfall 004 storm sewer system, which is an unauthorized discharge of process waters to the outfall.

On the date of the unauthorized discharge, a recently re-commissioned tin line evaporator experienced an upset condition that contaminated the cooling/condensate water for approximately fifteen minutes during startup. Investigation revealed that the cooling/condensate water piping was routed to the clean water sewer.

In order to prevent a recurrence, the following actions have been or will be taken:

- Re-route the evaporator cooling/condensate piping discharge to the process sewer.
- Install instrumentation to improve monitoring of the tin line evaporator systems.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 219-888-2339 or via electronic mail at [mdsoto@uss.com](mailto:mdsoto@uss.com).

Sincerely,

Mardanna D. Soto  
Environmental Compliance  
United States Steel Corporation  
Gary Works, Midwest Plant, East Chicago Tin

7011 0110 0000 2856 2222

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Sent To	Mr. Gary Starks
Street, Apt. No., or P.O. Box No.	Office of Water Quality Indiana Department of Environmental Management
City, State, ZIP+4	100 N. Senate Avenue P.O. Box 6015 Indianapolis, Indiana 46206



United States Steel – Midwest Plant  
6300 US Highway 12 – MS AE-1  
PORTAGE, IN 46368

February 8, 2013

Gary Starks  
Office of Water Quality  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
100 North Senate Avenue – Post Office Box 6015  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

**Re: United States Steel Corporation Midwest Plant  
NPDES Permit IN0000337  
Total Chromium Exceedence at Outfall 304**

Dear Mr. Starks:

This letter is to serve as a follow up to the phone call placed to your office on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 regarding the total recoverable chromium exceedence at United States Steel Corporation – Midwest Plant Outfall 304 (NPDES Permit IN0000337 – effective March 1, 2011), which was discovered on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 5, 2013.

Outfall 304 is the combined discharge of internal Outfalls 204 (Chrome Treatment) and 104 (Final Treatment Plant) with final discharge to Burns Waterway through Outfall 004. On February 3, 2013, a treatment plant process control pH excursion was experienced on one of the two process trains at the Chrome Treatment Plant. This excursion caused soluble chromium to carry through to the discharge of Outfall 204 and subsequently Outfall 304. Current process control configuration triggers alert at a combined tank prior to discharge. The process control parameters were not triggered at this combined location during the incident.

In order to prevent a recurrence, the following actions will be taken:

- USS personnel will equip each process train effluent with automated process controls for shut down prior to combining at the final tank
- USS personnel will revise procedures accordingly to reflect new automation and associated corrective action guidance.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 219-888-3369 or via electronic mail at [LELegler@uss.com](mailto:LELegler@uss.com).

Sincerely,

Lauren E. Legler  
Environmental Compliance  
United States Steel Corporation  
Gary Works, Midwest Plant, East Chicago Tin



SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<p>■ Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.</p> <p>■ Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.</p> <p>■ Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.</p>	<p>A. Signature <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Agent <input type="checkbox"/> Addressee</span></p> <p><b>X</b> FEB 12 2013</p> <p>B. Received by (Printed Name) <span style="float: right;">C. Date of Delivery</span></p> <p>D. Is delivery address different from item 1? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If YES, enter delivery address below: <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>1. Article Addressed to:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Gary Starks Office of Water Quality Indiana Department of Environmental Management 100 North Senate Avenue - P.O. Box 6015 Indianapolis, IN 46206</p> </div>	<p>3. Service Type</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail    <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Registered    <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Insured Mail    <input type="checkbox"/> G.O.D.</p> <p>4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>
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<p>Sent To</p> <p>Street, Apt. or PO Box    Gary Starks City, State    Office of Water Quality Indiana Department of Environmental Management 100 North Senate Avenue - P.O. Box 6015 Indianapolis, IN 46206</p>	



United States Steel Corporation – Gary Works  
One North Broadway, MS 70-A  
GARY, IN 46402

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

August 21, 2013

Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Water Quality - NPDES Permits Section  
Mail Code 65-42CB  
100 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

**Re: United States Steel Corporation – Midwest  
NPDES Permit IN0000337  
Outfall 004 WET Violation**

As required by NPDES Permit IN0000337 (effective March 1, 2011) Part II.C.3, U. S. Steel Midwest Plant (USS) is making written notification to IDEM within 5-days of becoming aware of the circumstance regarding the Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) violation at Outfall 004 for the August 2013 test. Verbal notification within 24-hours was made to your offices on Friday, August 16, 2013 regarding this incident.

The limit for WET at Outfall 004 is 1.5 TUc (chronic toxicity) for both *C. dubia* and Fathead Minnows (Part I.A.19). This limit was effective upon issuance of the permit, with no compliance schedule for this parameter. Per Part I.L.1.f.(1), toxicity is also demonstrated if the Outfall 004 effluent exceeds 1.0 TUa (acute toxicity).

USS successfully completed the June and July 2013 sampling with the following results (sampling was on June 2, 4 and 6 and July 7, 9 and 11):

**Table 1: June WET Results**

Acute Toxicity						Chronic Toxicity					
Species	Outfall	TUa Criteria	LC50	TUa (100/LC50)	Pass/Fail	TUc Limit	IC25	NOEC	TUc (100/NOEC)	TUc (100/IC25)	Pass/Fail
FM	004	1.0	100	1.0	PASS	1.5 TUc	>100	100	1.0	1.0	PASS
CD		TUa	100	1.0	PASS		73.4	67	1.5	1.4	PASS

**Table 2: July WET Results**

Acute Toxicity						Chronic Toxicity					
Species	Outfall	TUa Criteria	LC50	TUa (100/LC50)	Pass/Fail	TUc Limit	IC25	NOEC	TUc (100/NOEC)	TUc (100/IC25)	Pass/Fail
FM	004	1.0	100	1.0	PASS	1.5 TUc	>100	100	1.0	1.0	PASS
CD		TUa	100	1.0	PASS		85.2	67	1.5	1.2	PASS



The August 2013 chronic results for *C. dubia* were over the 1.5 TUc permit limit, with the following summary (sampling was on August 4, 6 and 8): **Note:** toxicity was not demonstrated on an acute basis)

Table 3: August WET Results

Acute Toxicity						Chronic Toxicity					
Species	Outfall	TUa Criteria	LC50	TUa (100/LC50)	Pass/Fail	TUc Limit	IC25	NOEC	TUc (100/NOEC)	TUc (100/IC25)	Pass/Fail
FM	004	1.0	100	1.0	PASS	1.5 TUc	>100	100	1	1	PASS
CD		TUa	100	1.0	PASS		50	34	2.9	2.0	FAIL

The confirmation testing for toxicity will take place within two weeks of obtaining the initial failure results as specified in the permit. Confirmation sampling will take place on August 25, 27, and 29. If toxicity is demonstrated on two consecutive sampling events at Outfall 004, USS will immediately begin the implementation of a TRE (toxicity reduction evaluation) as per part I.L.2 of the permit. If required the root cause of the toxicity and corrective/preventive actions will be identified during the TRE.

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please do not hesitate to contact me at 219-888-3369, or via electronic mail at [LELegler@uss.com](mailto:LELegler@uss.com).

Sincerely,

Lauren Legler  
Water Compliance Manager  
Environmental Control  
United States Steel Corporation  
Gary Works, Midwest Plant, East Chicago Tin Operations

CC: Stan Rigney  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Water Quality  
NPDES Permits Section  
100 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251





United States Steel Corporation – Gary Works  
One North Broadway, MS 70-A  
GARY, IN 46402

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

December 17, 2013

Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Water Quality - NPDES Permits Section  
Mail Code 65-42CB  
100 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

**Re: United States Steel Corporation – Midwest Plant  
NPDES Permit IN0000337  
Outfall 004 Discoloration**

As required by NPDES Permit IN0000337 (effective March 1, 2011) Part II.C.3, U. S. Steel Midwest Plant (USS) is making written notification to IDEM within 5-days of the observed discoloration at Outfall 004 that occurred on December 12, 2013. Verbal notification was made to your offices immediately upon the discovery of the incident on December 12<sup>th</sup> at approximately 2:15 PM.

Root cause investigation determined the treatment plant failed to adequately treat an upset condition caused by caustic cleaner that entered the system at a rate greater than normally expected. This resulted in cloudy discoloration at the final discharge to Burns Waterway, Outfall 004.

In order to prevent a recurrence, the following corrective actions will be implemented:

- Evaluate caustic cleaner systems and update procedures and/or discharge limiting equipment to better manage discharge rate
- Evaluate treatment system to optimize treatment of caustic cleaner

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please do not hesitate to contact me at 219-888-3369, or via electronic mail at [LELegler@uss.com](mailto:LELegler@uss.com).

Sincerely,

Lauren Legler  
Water Compliance Manager  
Environmental Control  
United States Steel Corporation  
Gary Works, Midwest Plant, East Chicago Tin Operations

CC: Stan Rigney, Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Nick Ream, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

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NPDES Permits Section  
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Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

2. Article Number  
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PS Form 3811, July 2013

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To: IDEM- Office of Water Quality 12/17/2013

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City, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

PS Form 3800, August 2005

See Reverse for Instructions

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# NONCOMPLIANCE 24-HOUR NOTIFICATION REPORT

State Form 52415 (R / 10-13)

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Office of Water Quality

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete all sections of this form and email it to Office of Water Quality, Compliance Data Section at [wwreports@idem.IN.gov](mailto:wwreports@idem.IN.gov). Thorough completion of this report will satisfy the Office of Water Quality (OWQ) telephone and 5-day written noncompliance notification reporting requirements of your NPDES permit. To speak with someone in OWQ, call (317) 232-8670.

Additionally, any noncompliance which may pose a significant danger to human health or the environment (including a fish kill) must be immediately reported to the Emergency Response Section spill response line at: (317) 233-7745 or toll free within Indiana at (888) 233-7745.

FACILITY INFORMATION				
Facility Name	County		NPDES Permit Number	
U. S. Steel Midwest Plant	Porter		IN0000337	
Individual Reporting	Telephone Number		Reporting Date (month, day, year)	
Lauren Legler	219-888-3369		June 17, 2014	
Email Address				
LELegler@uss.com				
NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION				
Date (month, day, year)	Outfall	Parameter	Permit Limit (Units/Daily/Weekly/Ave/Max/Min)	Monitored Value
June 8 - 13, 2014	004	Whole Effluent Toxicity	1.5 TUC Monthly Average - Frequency Quarterly	2.31
Date (month, day, year)	Outfall	Parameter	Permit Limit (Units/Daily/Weekly/Ave/Max/Min)	Monitored Value
Description of the Noncompliance and its Cause:				
<p>The limit for Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) at Outfall 004 is 1.5 TUC (chronic toxic unit) for <i>C. dubia</i> (Part I.A.19). This limit was effective upon issuance of the permit, with no compliance schedule for this parameter. Per Part I.L.1.f.(1), toxicity is also demonstrated if the Outfall 004 effluent exceeds 1.0 TUA (acute toxicity). The limitation for chronic WET was exceeded during the second quarter 2014 WET testing in June at the Midwest Plant Outfall 004, final discharge to Portage-Burns Waterway. NOTE: toxicity was also demonstrated on an acute basis. Outfall 004 is authorized to discharge treated process wastewater including treated chrome and Greenbelt II leachate (internal Outfalls 104 and 204), non-contact cooling water and storm water runoff.</p>				
Description of the Period of Noncompliance, Including Exact Dates and Time, and if the Noncompliance has not been Corrected, the Anticipated Time it is Expected to Continue:				
<p>Samples were collected on June 8, 10, 12 over a 24-hour period and arrived at the ENVIRON Toxicology Laboratory on June 10, 12, and 14.</p>				
Steps Taken or Planned to Reduce, Eliminate, and Prevent Reoccurrence of the Noncompliance:				
<p>The confirmation testing for toxicity will take place within two weeks of obtaining the initial failure results as specified in the permit. Confirmation sampling will take place on June 22, 24, and 26. If toxicity is demonstrated on two consecutive sampling events at Outfall 004, USS will immediately begin the implementation of a TRE (toxicity reduction evaluation) as per part I.L.2 of the permit. If required the root cause of the toxicity and corrective/preventive actions will be identified during the TRE.</p>				
CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE				
<p>I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.</p>				
SIGNATURE: <u>Lauren Legler</u>			DATE (month, day, year): <u>6/17/14</u>	





# NONCOMPLIANCE 24-HOUR NOTIFICATION REPORT

State Form 52415 (R / 10-13)

Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Water Quality

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete all sections of this form and email it to Office of Water Quality, Compliance Data Section at [wwreports@idem.IN.gov](mailto:wwreports@idem.IN.gov). Thorough completion of this report will satisfy the Office of Water Quality (OWQ) telephone and 5-day written noncompliance notification reporting requirements of your NPDES permit. To speak with someone in OWQ, call (317) 232-8670.

Additionally, any noncompliance which may pose a significant danger to human health or the environment (including a fish kill) must be immediately reported to the Emergency Response Section spill response line at: (317) 233-7745 or toll free within Indiana at (888) 233-7745.

FACILITY INFORMATION				
Facility Name	County		NPDES Permit Number	
U. S. Steel Midwest Plant	Porter		IN0000337	
Individual Reporting	Telephone Number		Reporting Date (month, day, year)	
Lauren Legler	219-888-3369		03-27-2015	
Email Address	LELegler@uss.com			

NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION				
Date (month, day, year)	Outfall	Parameter	Permit Limit (Units/Daily/Weekly/Ave/Max/Min)	Monitored Value
03-19-2015	304	Oil & Grease	Daily Maximum = 765 lb/day	848.3 lb/day
Date (month, day, year)	Outfall	Parameter	Permit Limit (Units/Daily/Weekly/Ave/Max/Min)	Monitored Value
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Description of the Noncompliance and its Cause:  
Loss of oil processing capabilities at the OilTech facility caused oil and greases to accumulate through the treatment system during the week prior to the incident. On Thursday March 19, the malfunction of the west basin oil skimming equipment and subsequent basin isolation contributed to increased throughput in the operating basin and oil loading at Outfall 104. Pursuant to Part II.B.3, Outfall 304 via Outfall 104 (Final Treatment Plant) experienced an upset condition in which high oil inventories throughout the water treatment system caused an oil & grease daily maximum loading violation. Results from March 19, 2015 were received from the laboratory on Thursday, March 26, 2015.

Description of the Period of Noncompliance, Including Exact Dates and Time, and if the Noncompliance has not been Corrected, the Anticipated Time it is Expected to Continue:  
3/19/15 Outfall 104 Oil & Grease Loading = 843.3 lb/day (North Final Treatment Plant discharge)  
3/19/15 Outfall 204 Oil & Grease Loading = 5.0 lb/day (Chrome Treatment Plant discharge)  
3/19/15 Outfall 304 Oil & Grease = 848.3 lb/day (combined discharge of Outfall 104 & 204)

This event was isolated to a less than twenty-four (24) hour interval. Oil & Grease analytical at Outfall 104 is based on a 3 part grab within the 24 period: Grab A (3/19 at 7:33 AM) 7.7 mg/L, Grab B (3/19 at 10:15 PM) 20 mg/L, and Grab C (3/20 at 7:28 AM) 3.3 mg/L. Additionally on March 22, the next scheduled sample day, analytical results at Outfalls 104 were within historical ranges and Outfall 304 was in compliance.

Steps Taken or Planned to Reduce, Eliminate, and Prevent Reoccurrence of the Noncompliance:

1. Utilize the NW API to store, break & process oil to manage the oil inventories
2. Develop contingency plan for offsite disposal of excess accumulated oils which cannot be processed by onsite vendor

CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE	
I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.	
SIGNATURE: <u>Lauren Legler</u>	DATE (month, day, year): <u>3-27-2015</u>





United States Steel Corporation  
Gary Works  
One North Broadway  
Gary, IN 46402-3199

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

April 5, 2016

Gary Starks  
Office of Water Quality  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
100 North Senate Avenue – Post Office Box 6015  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

**Re: United States Steel Corporation Midwest  
NPDES Permit IN0000337  
5-Day Follow-up to Outfall 004 Discoloration**

Dear Mr. Starks:

This letter is to serve as a follow up to the phone call conversations that Mark Henry had with Dave Greinke of the IDEM Emergency Response Office between Friday, April 1, 2016 and April 5, 2016 regarding a discoloration to Burns Waterway at United States Steel Corporation Midwest, Outfall 004 (NPDES Permit IN0000337 – effective April 1, 2016).

**Agency Notifications:**

IDEM – Incident No. 62201 – April 1, 2016  
NRC – Incident No. 1144260 – April 1, 2016  
IDEM – Incident No. 62237 – April 5, 2016  
NRC – Incident No. 1144532 – April 5, 2016

Outfall 004 is permitted to discharge process water from internal outfalls 104 and 204, and non-contact cooling water to the Burns Waterway. On April 1, 2016, U. S. Steel observed a white discoloration at Outfall 004, notified the agencies, and immediately began investigating. Noncontact cooling water from the Double Cold Reduction (DCR) Mill was quickly identified as the source, and the line was shut down to prevent further environmental impact. Initial process sampling indicated that approximately three (3) gallons of Morg Oil had leaked through the Morg Oil Heat Exchanger into the noncontact cooling water. The suspect heat exchanger was replaced on Saturday, April 2, and the line was restarted without incident. Dylan Caikowski of the U.S. Coast Guard was on site following the startup on April 2 to inspect Outfall 004 & the surrounding area. No deficiencies were identified.

U. S. Steel continued additional visual observation of Outfall 004, and on April 5, 2016, we observed white discoloration at Outfall 004, immediately shut down the DCR Mill, and notified the agencies. A deeper investigation revealed that a hydraulic oil system for the DCR was leaking into the service water upstream of the Morg Oil Heat Exchanger, leading to the misidentification of the root cause. The hydraulic oil system utilizes in-line mixing to periodically make-up the hydraulic oil reservoir. The controls for the make-up had malfunctioned, causing hydraulic oil to back feed into the service water main and pass through the Morg Oil Heat



Exchanger, eventually discharging through Outfall 004. Process sampling indicated that approximately 22 gallons of hydraulic oil was discharged before the DCR Mill could be shut down.

Dave Greinke of IDEM was on site on April 5, 2016 and observed Outfall 004 after the DCR Mill had been shut down. No deficiencies were identified.

U. S. Steel has identified the following corrective actions addressing this incident that will be implemented immediately.

1. Isolate the hydraulic oil makeup system from the service water feed and eliminate inline mixing to eliminate the potential for backflow – Completed April 5, 2016
2. Investigate similar configurations throughout the operating units to prevent similar incidents

If you have questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Henry at 219-763-5869 or via electronic mail at [Mhenry@uss.com](mailto:Mhenry@uss.com)

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Hanning, P.E.  
Director – Environmental Control  
Gary Works, Midwest Plant, East Chicago Tin

CC: Beth Noel (*electronic*)  
N. Ream – IDEM Northwest Regional Office  
D. Greinke – IDEM Emergency Response  
D. Caikowski – United States Coast Guard  
M. Henry – U. S. Steel  
E. Williams – U. S. Steel  
R. Casselberry – U. S. Steel